

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16. Claims 3, 8, 9 and 12-14 are amended herein. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 15 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 3-9 and 12-14 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-16 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,915,240 (Karpf). As mentioned above, claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 15 and 16 are cancelled herein.

The Examiner maintains the comparison of the MedLkup-server and the MedLkup-client of Karpf with the information disclosing server and the portal server of the present invention, respectively. However, the MedLkup-client (101) establishes a direct communication connection with the MedLkup-server (102) to update itself by comparing the information contained on a central database with the most currently available information on the local database (see, FIGS. 1 and 7 and corresponding text and co. 6, lines 34-46). That is, Karpf requires that the MedLkup-server maintain a record of the latest data on each local database of the clients accessing the information on the central database. This presents a problem in that the MedLkup-server needs to be set up for providing customized information based on each of the local databases of the clients.

The information disclosing server of the present invention is connected to the client through the portal server that is directly connected to the client, thereby enabling information to be provided to the client based on display data defined by the portal server.

Independent claim 3 as amended recites, "storing additional information by creating folders having a hierarchical structure corresponding to logical structures of the contents and by storing the respective attributes of the contents in each of the folders." Claim 3 further recites, "sending display data created by the display data creating means to the client which made a request" and "associating information for designating a template used to create the display data with the folders and creating display data according to an appropriate template."

As also recited in claim 3, additional information is obtained by "creating folders having a hierarchical structure corresponding to logical structures of the contents and by storing the respective attributes of the contents in each of the folders" and "information for designating a

template used to create the display data is associated with the folders, and the display data creating means creates display data according to an appropriate template."

Independent claims 12-14 recite similar features where the client is "directly" connected (claims 12 and 14), or "in direct communication" (claim 13) with the portal server. Independent claims 12-14 also recite, "defining" or "specifying" display of the contents in the information disclosing server."

Karpf does not teach or suggest the above-discussed features of independent claims 3 and 12-14. Instead, the MedLkup-server in Karpf maintains a record of information that is provided to the MedLkup-client to determine necessity of updates and to directly provide the updates to the MedLkup-client.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over Karpf.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from the independent claims are patentably distinguishable over Karpf. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 8, "the additional information obtaining means obtains additional information from the information disclosing server by a method designated in advance." Karpf does not teach or suggest these features of claim 8.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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